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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 578
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor Matthew LeSage on being named a Distinguished Finalist and State Honoree for the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the members of this General Assembly to pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Matthew LeSage, an esteemed resident of Knoxville and a seventh grade student at Farragut Middle School, has been named Tennessee's top middle school volunteer in the Seventh Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award's nationwide program, which recognizes young people for outstanding community service; and

WHEREAS, for his exemplary volunteer service, Matthew was recognized as a 2002 Distinguished Finalist and State Honoree for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, which is presented by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals and honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

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WHEREAS, Matthew LeSage earned this prestigious award by initiating a project called "Hams for the Hungry"; this program raises money to provide Easter meals for less fortunate families; and

WHEREAS, due in large part to Matthew LeSage's remarkable efforts, "Hams for the Hungry" has raised \$20,000 and provided Easter meals to nearly 5,000 families over the past two years; and;

WHEREAS, "Hams for the Hungry" has been so successful that food banks in West Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama are adopting the program to combat hunger in their respective states; and

WHEREAS, as a State Honoree, Matthew will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. on May 4, 2002, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, Matthew LeSage epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and has taken his rightful place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname, "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the prosperity of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of young people like Matthew LeSage who use their considerable talents and resources to serve their fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Matthew LeSage on being named a Distinguished Finalist and State Honoree for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognize his outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership and community spirit as the state's top middle school volunteer, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.